

The Sourdough

S E N T I N E L

Dec. 7, 2001

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Vol. 52, No. 48

Santa Goes north

*517th brings
Christmas to
Arctic Village
-- Pages 10-11*



MILITARY WORKING DOGS



K-9 Cops -- Page 3

GAME OF THE WEEK



-- Page 20

News in Brief

Christmas musical

The Elmendorf Christmas Musical will be performed at 7 p.m. Sunday at the old furniture store at 8497 Rickenbacker St. The free production features a cast from across Elmendorf, embracing holiday cheer with song and dance.

Cookie donations

Cookie donations for the airmen cookie drive can be dropped off from 7:30 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. Dec. 17 and from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Dec. 18 at the Chapel Annex. For more information, call 552-5385.

Gift-wrapping

The American Red Cross has a gift-wrapping station at the Joint Military Mall to provide the finishing touches for patrons with holiday gifts.

The operation, accepting donations only, raises funds for not only the Red Cross, but units that volunteer at the station.

Gift-wrapping continues through Dec. 24.

Chief induction

The Elmendorf Chief's Group holds its annual Chief Master Sergeant Induction Ceremony and Dinner Jan. 11 at the Egan Center. Cost is \$30, and tickets can be obtained from any Elmendorf chief or chief-select.

Dress is mess dress or semi-formal for military and coat and tie for civilians.

The guest speaker is Pacific Air Forces Command Chief Master Sergeant Gerald R. Murray.

U-Fix-It store

Housing residents are reminded that the U-Fix-It store at 6346 Arctic Warrior Drive has snow rakes to remove snow buildup on roofs that



STAFF SGT. JIM FISHER

Fresh coat

Airman 1st Class Iris Gilmore of the Military Personnel Flight puts finishing touches on the handicapped entrance to the MPF's customer service and records area. The area reopened with a ribbon cutting ceremony Nov. 30 after asbestos abatement, new paint and furniture were added to the center, by way of self help and contract projects. The MPF is now open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

can be reached from the ground level. These rakes can also be used to remove icicles. Snow melt is also available.

If residents cannot reach the snow and ice buildup on their quarters, contact the Housing Maintenance service desk at 753-2294 or 753-2298.

Family Support Center

■ Spouses of deployed and remote tour members can take part in the Hearts Apart Coffee Break Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Family Support Center.

■ Cooped up family members can take a cabin-fever reliever break Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

■ The FSC's Holiday Open

House takes place Wednesday at 11 a.m.

For information or reservations for FSC activities, call the center at 552-4943.

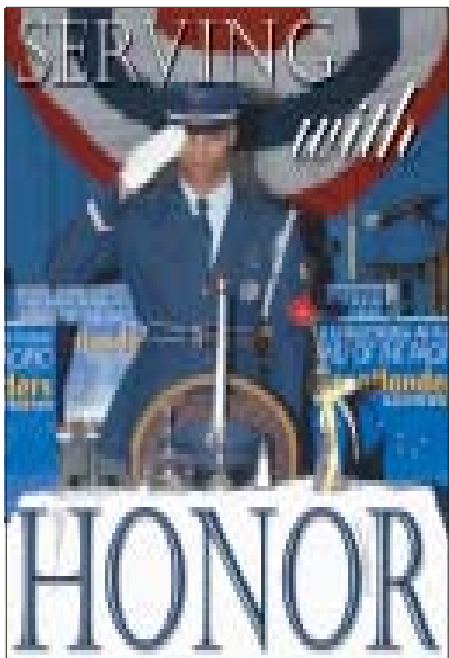
Gate closures

The Muldoon and Post Road gates will have the following holiday schedule:

- Dec. 24: Muldoon Gate closed, Post Road Gate open 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Dec. 25: Both gates closed
- Dec. 31: Muldoon Gate closed, Post Road Gate open 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Jan. 1: Both gates closed

Commissary hours

The Commissary will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 24, and closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.



"Serving with Honor" debuts in this week's *Sentinel* as the premier vehicle for recognizing the many outstanding people that make up team Elmendorf.

We'll begin with this week's outstanding performers.

Staff Sgt. Thomas Pontes of the 3rd Civil Engineer Squadron devised and carried out a plan to present the Elmendorf community with a 15 by 30-foot American Flag on Arctic Warrior Drive. Illuminated by 22,000 light bulbs, the project required the coordination of four CE sections and effort from 16 volunteers, accomplished primarily during off-duty time. He also led the effort to install holiday lights across the base.

Airman Alicia L. Lynn of the 19th Fighter Squadron excelled in her role as the 19th's work group administrator. Her professionalism and versatility shined as she enhanced the unit's deployment capabilities by configuring mobility notebook computers. Her work included ensuring global communications by equipping each system with remote access server capability and rebuilding seven machines.

Senior Airman Andrew Drewiske of the 3rd Component Repair Squadron completed an F-15 aircraft acceptance inspection 12 hours ahead of standard, while conducting training on five egress munitions time changes. He also discovered a cracked underwater activated release system.

This week's Commander's Shadow is **Senior Airman Mark Powell** of the 3rd Security Forces Squadron.

School crosswalks

Q: I am calling about the crosswalks at Orion Elementary School. There seems to be a tendency for parents picking up and dropping off students to park in the crosswalks. When they do this, it prevents the children or any pedestrians from using the crosswalk that was designed to ensure safe crossing.

A: Thank you for calling and bringing this to our attention.

Do you have a problem you can't seem to get solved? Would you like to recognize someone for a job well done?

The commander's action line is your avenue to communicate you questions, comments and concerns directly to the commander, Brig. Gen. Doug Fraser. Your calls will get the commander's personal attention and be answered in a timely manner.

If you have a question, call or e-mail the action line at:

552-2224
actionline@elmendorf.af.mil



Brig. Gen. Doug Fraser

I want to remind parents, guardians or anyone dropping off or picking up a child at Orion or any of our schools — please don't park and block the

crosswalks at any time. Crosswalks provide safe passage for our youngsters and parents walking to and from school.



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**Best in DoD
2000
Best In Air Force
1999 & 2000
Best in PACAF
1998, 1999 & 2000**

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PHOTOS & GRAPHICS

Extensive photographic and graphical support is provided to the Sourdough Sentinel by the 3rd Communications Squadron's Visual Information Flight.

The following photos/illustrations appear in this week's edition:

On the Cover: text illustrations by Staff Sgt. Jim Fisher



3rd Wing History Moment



December, 1951:

The assigned strength of the 3rd Bomb Wing began to increase after hitting a record low in November.

SATO transaction fee
SATO now adds a non-refundable transaction fee of \$15.50 to each ticket (itinerary) issued at Elmendorf. The one-time fee covers a complete travel itinerary, regardless of how many air carriers or flight segments are involved. The fee will be added to the ticket price and paid through the individual’s orders fund cite. The fee is not applicable to reservation changes prior to ticketing or to refunds, but will be charged for changes after ticketing that require a new ticket. Units should wait until as close to the departure date as possible to have tickets issued to minimize costs. For more information, call the Traffic Management Office passenger travel section at 552-1798.

Air Force Band
The Air Force Band of the Pacific’s “Top Cover” presents its annual “Home for the Holidays” concert Dec. 21 at 8 p.m. in the Atwood Concert Hall of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are available at the ACPA ticket office.

Squadron card contest
Squadrons must submit cards for the squadron Christmas card contest to the Community Center by Dec. 14. This year’s theme is “Peace on Earth.” Cards must be painted on 4-by-8-foot plywood. All items, including lights, must be supplied by the squadron creating the card.

For more information, call 552-8528.

Tops in Blue concert
Tops in Blue presents a free performance Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the base theater.

Hearts Apart party
The Hearts Apart spouses group and the Enlisted Spouses of Elmendorf Alaska are holding a holiday party Saturday from 2-4 p.m. at the Air Support Group Chalet for all families with deployed or remote tour members. Children are welcome. Make reservations by today by calling the Family Support Center at 552-4943.


HAWC classes
The Health and Wellness Center offers the following classes:
■ Learn how important it is to maintain a strong back at the Back Care class Dec. 10 at 2 p.m.
■ Pregnant women can receive exercise information and instruction at the Fit Pregnancy class Dec. 17 at 10 a.m.
■ Get the most from your workouts by attending the Fitness Basics course Dec. 20 at 1 p.m.
For more information or to register, call the HAWC at 552-2361.

Family Advocacy
Family Advocacy offers the following on-going classes:
■ Get practical advice on behavior and stages of children at the Positive Parenting class.
■ All About Babies is a three-part

class in care giving, infant CPR and other baby-related topics.
■ Spouses can learn the “speaker/listener” technique to help manage relationship conflict at the Couples Communication class.
■ A Parents and Littles playgroup meets every Monday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
■ Learn tools for handling emotions and relationships at the Anger Management class every Wednesday from 12-1 p.m.
■ The Airmen’s Group is a support group that teaches life skills and problem solving techniques.
For more information or to register, call Family Advocacy at 580-5858.

OSI recruiters
The Air Force Office of Special Investigations Recruiting Team visits Elmendorf Dec. 20 and 21 as part of an ongoing search for potential special agent applicants. Briefings will take place at the Susitna Club from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Letters from Santa
Parents and children can receive letters from Santa by sending a self-addressed, legal-sized, stamped envelope to:
Santa’s Mailbag
354 OSS/OSW
1215 Flightline Ave. Ste. 100B
Eielson AFB AK 99702-1520
Christmas cards can also be forwarded to this address to be postmarked from the North Pole. For more information, call the postal service center at 552-4622.



Chapel Schedule Changes

Catholic Parish

- Weekday Mass: noon at the Chapel Center
- Friday Mass: noon at the Hospital Chapel
- Saturday Mass: 5 p.m. at Chapel 2
- Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m. at Chapel 2
- Confession: 4:15 p.m. Saturday at Chapel 2

Protestant Sunday

- Liturgical service: 9 a.m. at Chapel Center
- Celebration (traditional): 9 a.m. at Chapel 2
- Praise and Worship (contemporary): 9 a.m. at 8947 Rickenbacker Ave. (the old furniture store)
- Gospel service: noon at Chapel 2

Religious education

- Catholic: Sundays from 9-10 a.m. at the Chapel
- Protestant: Sundays from 10:25-11:15 a.m. at the Chapel Center

Other faiths

Contact the Chapel at 552-4422 for information

Open Ranks

By Maj. Johnn Kennedy
Chief, Public Affairs

The hills, not to mention the Anchorage Bowl, are alive with the sights and sounds of Christmas. Lights have been strung with care and have been blazing in patriotic glory since mid-October. Along with the festive glow, we've also had our share of scares and hoaxes since Sept. 11. Our continued vigilance will ensure they become nothing more. In all, it really is the season to be jolly.

Proof is the scheduling of 24 official, unit sponsored holiday parties between now and Dec. 22. There are many more, less formal parties scheduled in homes across the base and Bowl. It is a time for families and friends to gather, to reflect on their lives and the blessings each has received. It is also a time to recommit ourselves to our ideals, common to many religions, of peace and goodwill toward mankind.

It is also a dangerous time. A time for caution, to watch out for each other and ourselves, as the party revelers hit the roads. Yep, the unfortunate downside to the holiday glow is the dark realization that some folks will party just a bit too hearty.

Drunk driving is a concern all year but is an especially sad event during the holiday season. When you combine the physical limitations alcohol use applies to your body with cold weather and slick roads, you have a recipe for disaster. It's a risk that could put you in the position of being responsible for the injury or death of a child or that child's parent. It could be your child that no longer sleeps with visions of sugarplums dancing in his head.

Alaska is very concerned about alcohol abuse. A recent report cited alcohol abuse as costing the state \$453 million in lost productivity, traffic accidents, criminal cases, protective services, health care and public assistance. You can safely bet local law enforcement officials will be watching. It's also a safe bet our own security forces will also be watching since drunk driving is a perpetual special interest item for senior leaders. You should consider yourself warned.

This is the season to be jolly so go out and have a good time. Enjoy life, family and friends, this holiday season and over the rest of your life. Just do it safely and smartly. Happy holidays.

Arctic Life

Great living in the great land

Canadian Forces Corner

Canadian and British troops honor traditions

From the last Sunday in October until Remembrance Day, Nov. 11, known in the United States as Veterans' Day, Commonwealth countries around the world wear a poppy to remember. This year, the Canadian and British exchange troops at Elmendorf wore poppies to recognize the sacrifices that veterans have made for our freedom.

The wearing of poppies as a sign of remembering began after the First World War and continues today as a sign of honoring the veterans from all of the conflicts in which Canadians and Britons have been involved.

The tradition began after the devastation caused by years of trench digging and constant assault of shell and mortar fire on the fields in Europe during the first and second World Wars, leaving the landscape void of vegetation. The vibrant European countryside was replaced with a landscape that was scorched, burned and bloodied. Similar to Alaskan fireweed, European red poppy seeds can remain in the soil for years without germinating and once the earth has been disturbed, they begin to grow.

Years after the Armistice had been signed and the soldiers returned home to their loved ones, the European scenery metamorphosed into a

*IN FLANDERS FIELDS THE
POPPIES BLOW.
BETWEEN THE CROSSES
—ROW ON ROW.
THAT MARK OUR PLACE:
AND IN THE SKY
THE LARKS STILL
BRAVELY SINGING, FLY
SCARCE HEARD AMID
THE GUNS BELOW.
WE ARE THE DEAD.
— SHORT DAYS AGO
WE LIVED, FELT DAWN,
SAW SUNSET GLOW,
LOVED AND WERE
LOVED, AND NOW WE LIE
IN FLANDERS FIELDS.
TAKE UP OUR QUARREL
WITH THE FOE:
TO YOU FROM FAILING
HANDS WE THROW
THE TORCH; BE YOURS
TO HOLD IT HIGH.
IF YE BREAK FAITH WITH
US WHO DIE
WE SHALL NOT SLEEP,
THOUGH POPPIES GROW
IN FLANDERS FIELDS.
--Canadian Army
Lt. Col. John McCrae*

brilliant sea of red poppies. The poppies became the enduring symbol



PHOTO BY CANADIAN ARMY SGT. GERRY PILOTE

Canadian Leading Seaman Daniel Angleheart lays a wreath to honor veterans at the Canadian Camp at Velika Kladusa, Bosnia Nov. 11.

of the memory of those who perished in battles.

This tradition inspired a Canadian Lt. Col. (Army) John McCrae to pen the above description of this metamorphosis on the Battlefields of Flanders.

Editors note: The Canadian Forces content featured in this Week's Arctic Life sections will run in the Sentinel periodically as Canadian Forces Corner. The section is provided to increase communication between U.S. and Canadian members of Team Elmendorf.

Canadian Forces briefs

Housing rental

During the summer months, Canadian Forces members transition to and from Elmendorf through permanent changes of station. For the majority of newly-arrived Canadians, a house-hunting trip is completed in April or May to secure rental accommodations.

Families require leases that would last of three to four years. If you are interested in making your home available as a rental accommodation for Canadian military personnel, please contact the Canadian Forces (CF) Detachment Chief Clerk, Sgt. Karen Dumont at 552-5019.

The CF Personnel Support Center maintains a listing of rental accommodations available and will add others upon request. This service is provided free of charge by the CF Detachment.

The Canadian Forces assumes no

liability with regards to rent and lease negotiations.

Lease and rental negotiations, expectations and special conditions are the sole responsibility of the prospective landlord and tenant. For more information, call 552-5019.

Turkey draw

To help the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks, the Canadian Forces Detachment held a drawing raising funds to be distributed to the New York Firefighter's 911 Disaster Relief Fund. More than \$200 was raised.

French tutor

The Canadian Forces Detachment is looking for a children's French tutor. The tutor would be required to teach individual children in their home in the Anchorage, Eagle River and Peters' Creek areas.

A teaching certificate and French

language experience is required. Starting salary is dependent on experience, but will be \$21 - \$25.

Please forward resumes to mark.cayouette@elmendorf.af.mil. For more information, call Maj. Mark Cayouette at 552-1297.

Promotion

The Canadian Forces Detachment congratulated Maj. Patrick Ouellet on his recent promotion.

Happy Holidays

The Senior Canadian Officer, Col. Paul Drover, the Canadian Detachment Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Bill Veenhof and all the Canadian personnel assigned to Elmendorf would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season and a prosperous 2002.

For information on Canadian Forces Corner, call 552-4214.

Sports News

USA airs Eco-Challenge

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Six Air Force adventure racing teams competed against teams from the other services during this year’s “Eco-Challenge: U.S. Armed Forces Championship.” Coverage of the competition will premiered on worldwide television Tuesday, on the USA Network. It will also air Sunday at 5 a.m. in Alaska.

Team Speedy Mail, an Air Force team which had three pararescuemen and a communications officer, outlasted 21 other military teams to win the race held this past June in Alaska.

The winning team included Elmendorf’s 1st Lt. Rebecca King from the 611th Air Communications Flight; Senior Master Sgt. Skip Kula and Tech. Sgt. David Shuman, both from the 210th Rescue Squadron at Kulis Air National Guard Base; and team captain Tech. Sgt. Ken Fournier from the 38th RQS at Moody AFB, Ga.

The 158-mile course required the 22 mixed-gender, four-person teams, to scale a 7,000-foot peak, cross ice fields and glacier moraines, raft and

canoe inland rivers, mountain bike, bushwhack through unmarked territory, and trek across tundra inhabited by bears, wolves and mosquitoes.

“We worked hard but had fun the whole time we were out there,” King said. “Anybody can do this as long as they get it into their head that they want to do it. First of all, you have to be passionate about it. You have to dedicate yourself to it and never look back.

“You can never think of quitting. Once you can think that way, the rest of it’s easy. (Adventure racing) is 90-percent mental.”

The team went on to represent the Air Force and the armed forces against 73 teams of adventure athletes from around the world in the 2001 “Eco-Challenge: New Zealand” this past October.

Renamed Team America’s Air Force, they finished 12th overall in the main eco-challenge race, the highest showing ever by a U.S. military team. A team of Navy SEALs finished 17th in the 1998 “Eco-Challenge: Morocco” race.

Game of the Week



STAFF SGT. JIM FISHER

Comm 67, SFS 44

3rd Communications Squadron center Richard Cooper rips down a rebound and looks for an outlet pass during the 2nd quarter of an Over-30 Basketball League contest with the 3rd Security Forces Squadron Tuesday at the fitness center. Johnny Skinner (3), and Brian Creswell defend. Comm took the contest 67-44 on 3-point shooting from Anton Kralj and superior rebounding from Cooper and Thomas Brooks.